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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: MEIER et al

Serial No.:

Filed: April 13, 2000

**For: Method For Increasing The Wear Resistance
Of A Work Piece**

Group:

Examiner:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

April 13, 2000

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits of this application and prior to calculation of the filing fee, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 3, line 1, delete "or 2".

Claim 4, line 1, delete "or 2".

Claim 5, line 1, delete "one of claims 1 to 4" and insert --claim 1--.

Claim 7, line 1, delete "one of claims 1 to 5" and insert "--claim 1--."

Claim 8, line 1, delete "one of claims 1 to 7" and insert --claim 1--.

Claim 11, line 1, delete "one of claims 8 to 10" and insert --claim 8--.

Claim 12, line 1, delete "one of claims 8 to 11" and insert --claim 8--.

Figure 1 consists of 12 histograms arranged in a single column. Each histogram represents the frequency distribution of the number of non-zero elements in the vector x for a specific value of n . The x-axis for all histograms is 'Number of non-zero elements in x ' with major ticks at 0, 20, 40, 60, 80, 100, and 120. The y-axis is 'Frequency' with major ticks at 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10. The histograms are labeled with n values: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, and 120. As n increases, the distribution becomes more concentrated around $n/2$, and the peak frequency increases.